

A MESSAGE FROM . . .



BOB RILEY
Governor, State of Alabama

With the cool crisp days of fall here, many things occur in Alabama . . . among them football, fall color, and hunting season.

Of the 347 thousand people that hunt in Alabama every year, 73 percent of them are Alabama residents. The remaining 27 percent live out of state, traveling from all over the country and even other countries to hunt the abundant wildlife in Alabama. Each year, hunting brings in over \$610 million dollars to our state's economy. On the average, hunters spend over \$1,700 per person each hunting season. Aside from food and lodging, they spend their money on equipment, fuel, licenses, tags, permits, land leasing, membership dues, and even hunting magazines and books.

Hunting is a big industry in Alabama. The reason that it is so big is the abundant and healthy forests we have that can support some of the finest wildlife in the nation. Approximately 78 percent of Alabama's 23 million acres of forest land is owned by private non-industrial landowners, many of whom manage their land under a responsible stewardship ethic like TREASURE Forest.

By continuing to manage our natural resources and protect our environment, we will attract even more hunters and other sportsmen to Alabama and profit from their investments. ♣



TIMOTHY C. BOYCE
State Forester

As you travel around the state visiting TREASURE Forest landowners and talking to them about their accomplishments and goals, it becomes vividly apparent how important our conservation programs are. So many landowners continue to show me stewardship practices they have conducted on their land through programs like the Stewardship Incentive Program, the Forestry Incentives Program, the state conservation program, and the Conservation Reserve Program.

The 2002 Farm Bill provided a new program that will also benefit landowners.

The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) will allow our agency to provide additional education programs and professional technical assistance for landowners. This will further augment the TREASURE Forest Program, through which our foresters and wildlife biologists work directly with each landowner. By preparing management plans for each landowner's specific goals and objectives and helping them implement accomplishments, Alabama's forests remain healthy and productive for all to enjoy and utilize. ♣